

East Beds Community Bus takes delivery of the UK's first new Daily Line intercity minibus

Low total cost of ownership enables not-for-profit organisation to specify purpose-built minibus for vital community bus service

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East Beds Community Bus has become the first operator in the UK to take delivery of a Daily Line intercity minibus, featuring a spacious interior enabling more passengers to be carried on the busiest routes.



Manufactured on the IVECO BUS production line and sold directly via Guest Truck and Van in Peterborough, the 16-seater will be used exclusively for the organisation's Ivel Sprinter voluntary community bus service.

The not-for-profit organisation says the Daily Line minibus' projected low total cost of ownership enabled a move away from purchasing second-hand vehicles. It will be in service up to five hours per day, six days per week, clocking-up approximately 10,000 miles each year. The vehicle's primary role is to assist residents in outlying villages and the suburbs of towns, who have been left without a satisfactory form of local transport to take shopping trips and attend medical appointments. It can also be hired out by community groups for outings.

Peter Davies, Publicity Manager for Ivel Sprinter, says: "The Daily Line minibus ticked all the boxes for us, particularly with the ability to customise the configuration of the saloon to meet our exact requirements. It meant we could opt for a 16-seat layout to increase passenger capacity, whilst still ensuring plenty of space at the rear to accommodate their shopping."

Commenting on the vehicle purchasing process, he adds: "What made things really easy was being able to order the entire vehicle directly through our local IVECO BUS dealer in Peterborough. This saved an inordinate amount of time and reduced paperwork, which for a charity run by volunteers, makes all the difference."

The Daily Line intercity minibus has been built on a 4,100mm wheelbase – one of three available in the range – and is powered by an efficient Euro VI 3.0 litre diesel engine which can produce up to 170hp at 3,500 rev/min, and a maximum 400 Nm of torque between 1,350 and 3,000 rev/min.



IVECO BUS has designed the Daily Line specifically for intercity missions, with this first delivery featuring an eight-speed Hi-Matic automatic transmission which helps to deliver a smooth ride for passengers, minimal running costs, unbeatable driver comfort and superior gear changes, along with reduced fuel consumption. Each gear change is quicker and more precise when compared to standard six-speed models, because Hi-Matic ensures that the correct gear is engaged at whatever engine speed, in less than 200 milliseconds – making driving a pleasure for the organisation’s volunteer staff.

The Hi-Matic transmission has also been proven by IVECO BUS to reduce repair and maintenance costs by 10 per cent versus a standard manual transmission, thanks to its enhanced durability and reliability – contributing to the low total cost of ownership.

Supplied in the charity’s white and green livery, the Daily Line minibus is operating on a ‘hail-and-ride policy’ within an approximate 20-mile radius of Biggleswade and Sandy, and out to Bedford, Cambridge and St Neots.

IVECO BUS

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IVECO BUS employs over 5,000 people across two production units, in Annonay, France and in Vysoké Myto, Czech Republic. Both factories were awarded the bronze medal in 2013 following their WCM (World Class Manufacturing) audits, an international methodology for managing manufacturing processes according to best standards worldwide.

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